

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 10-11 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8 are amended. Claims 10 and 11 are new. Claims 4 and 9 are cancelled. Claims 1 and 6 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - §102

Claims 1, 2, and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6523003 to Chandran ("Chandran"). Insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Chandran teaches a system and method for enhancing the quality of a communication signal derived from speech and noise. (Col. 2, lines 30-32). Specifically, Chandran teaches altering specific frequency bands in the signal based on modified gain signals to generate a weighted frequency band signal that enhances speech and suppresses noise. (Col. 2, lines 45-51).

Claim 1

Independent claim 1 pertains to a method for noise reduction in an audio device, the method comprising, in pertinent part, calculating attenuation values for the audio signal where "the attenuation values in each specific frequency band are calculated in the following way: first attenuation values are calculated according to a first predefined transfer function between the modulation amplitude detected by the second detector and attenuation values whereby the first transfer function prescribes generally low attenuation values, second attenuation values are

calculated according to a second predefined transfer function between the modulation amplitude detected by the second detector and attenuation values whereby the second transfer function prescribes generally high attenuation values, and fading between the first and the second calculated attenuation values is performed in response to the detected speech presence indicators from the first detector.”

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-quoted claim language, incorporated into independent claim 1 from now-cancelled dependent claim 4, is noted in the Office Action as allowable subject matter that is not taught by Chandran.

Claim 6

Independent claim 6 pertains to a hearing aid means for reducing noise in an input signal, the hearing aid comprising, in pertinent part, an attenuation value calculator comprising “a first attenuation calculator that calculates first attenuation values according to a first predefined transfer function between the modulation amplitude detected by the band-specific analyzer and attenuation values whereby the first transfer function prescribes generally low attenuation values, a second attenuation calculator that calculates second attenuation values according to a second predefined transfer function between the modulation amplitude detected by the band-specific analyzer and attenuation values whereby the second transfer function prescribes generally high attenuation values, a fader that fades between the first and the second calculated attenuation values in response to the detected speech presence indicators from the broad band speech detector.”

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-quoted claim language, incorporated into independent claim 6 from now-cancelled dependent claim 9, is noted in the Office Action as allowable subject matter that is not taught by Chandran.

Claims 2, 5, and 7

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 5, and 7 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claims 1 and 6, respectively.

Summary

At least in view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that Chandran is deficient in its teaching with respect to independent claims 1 and 6, and all claims depending therefrom. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - §103

Claims 3 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chandran in view of Chandran's admitted prior art ("CAAPA"). Insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claim, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3 and 8 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claims 1 and 6. Applicant submits that CAAPA does not remedy the deficiencies of Chandran with respect to independent claims 1 and 6. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting that claims 4 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten into independent format. Applicant has moved the limitations of claims 4 and 9 into independent claims 1 and 6, respectively, and therefore respectfully requests allowance of independent claims 1 and 6 and all claims depending therefrom.

New Claims

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 10 and 11 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claims 1 and 6.

Conclusion

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance in the present application.

Application No. 10/591,351
Amendment dated June 20, 2008
Response to Office Action of March 20, 2008

Docket No.: 4436-0133PUS1

However, should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' representative, Naphtali Matlis (Reg. No. 61,592) at the telephone number of the undersigned in order to discuss the application and expedite prosecution.

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Respectfully submitted,

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